SECTION A  Quiz

Choose the correct answer.

1  In world terms, Britain has ________ summers and cool winters.
   A  hot
   B  warm
   C  cool

2  Which of these does Britain not have?
   A  floods
   B  earth tremors
   C  active volcanoes

3  If you read in a scene from a novel set in Britain that the temperature was ‘in the mid eighties’, what is the weather like?
   A  hot
   B  neither hot nor cold
   C  impossible – it must be science fiction

4  Which is the least densely populated country in Britain?
   A  England
   B  Scotland
   C  Wales

5  London is larger than any other city in Britain. About how much larger?
   A  twice as large
   B  four times larger
   C  six times larger

6  Where in England is Birmingham?
   A  the midlands
   B  the north
   C  the south

7  Where in England is Manchester?
   A  the midlands
   B  the north
   C  the south

8  What is the largest city in Scotland?
   A  Aberdeen
   B  Edinburgh
   C  Glasgow

9  What proportion of the population of London was born outside Britain?
   A  less than 10%
   B  about 20%
   C  more than 30%

10 Which of the following cities is not in England?
    A  Cardiff
    B  Leeds
    C  Newcastle

11 Generally speaking, which part of Britain gets the most rain in a year?
    A  the east
    B  the south
    C  the west

12 Which form of alternative energy is most used in Britain?
    A  solar power
    B  water power
    C  wind power

13 In world terms, how much rain does London get in a year?
    A  a little
    B  a moderate amount
    C  a lot

14 Which of these is nearest to London?
    A  The Downs
    B  The Lake District
    C  The Pennines

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SECTION B  London

Match 1–8 with a–h.
1 a popular London tourist attraction
2 the structure used to protect London from flooding
3 the area where the Houses of Parliament are located
4 the financial centre of London
5 the main area for entertainment and shopping
6 the traditional home of Cockneys
7 the area into which modern London is expanding
8 the south-east of England

SECTION C  British words and phrases

Find the word or phrase in chapter 3 of Britain which is used to mean or describe:
1 the edges of hills facing out to sea on the south coast of England
2 areas of land where there are no towns or cities (the opposite of ‘urban’)
3 a combination of smoke and fog
4 the fact that temperatures around the world are rising
5 the flat, watery area in East Anglia
6 an area of Glasgow famous in the past for its terrible housing conditions

SECTION D  North to south

Put the following in order from north to south.
1 Hadrian’s Wall
2 Land’s End
3 The Pennines
4 The Athens of the north
5 The Black Country
6 The highlands
SECTION E  Extension

Fill in the gaps in this text with words and phrases from the list below.

It is part of English folklore that the north and south of the country are irredeemably different from each other. The north is full of poor but ___________ workers; the south is full of rich softies who live off the ___________ of the northerners. In the south of England all the men wear bowler hats and suits and carry ___________ on the train to work in ___________ every day. In the north, they all wear workman’s overalls and cycle to work in the local ___________ carrying ___________. In the south, they are ___________ but a bit soft and hypocritical. In the north they are ___________ and hard, suspicious of strangers but actually very friendly.

These two stereotypes are well-known in England. But they cannot be completely true. After all, most of the ___________ in the north has closed down. In any case, people in Britain ___________ a lot in their lifetimes, so that lots of the people in the south of England must be northerners and vice-versa. Nevertheless, it is true that ___________ cost much more in the south than they do in the north. But even here the picture is complicated. Ten of the ___________ areas in the country are actually in . . . London.

briefcases heavy industry move around poorest the city honest plain speaking sandwiches factory houses polite sweat

SECTION F  Talking points

1 How is the pattern of human settlement in your country different from that in Britain?

2 In modern times, London is expanding towards the east. Can you see any problems with expanding in this particular direction?

3 People sometimes say that London is not at all typical of the rest of Britain. On the basis of the information given in chapter 3 of Britain, do you think this is true? Does the capital city of your country stand in the same relation to the rest of the country as London does to Britain?

4 Are the stereotypes of the north and south of England and their inhabitants similar to the images of the north and south of your country?

5 In the short ‘tour’ of the regions of Britain in chapter 3 of Britain, some sections are longer than others. This is partly because some regions have ‘higher profiles’ than others – that is, more is known or imagined about them than others. Which are the regions of Britain that seem to have the higher profiles? What do their reputations consist of?

6 If you had to live in Britain but could choose anywhere in the country, which part would you choose? Why? Is this the same part you would choose to visit for a holiday?